



Attorney Docket No. 102792-616

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Francesc Ayats et al.  
SERIAL NO. : 10/597,396  
FILED : July 24, 2006  
FOR : Water-Softening Method  
ART UNIT : TBA  
EXAMINER : TBA

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 23, 2006

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

**I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e). However, should the Commissioner determine that a fee is, in fact, due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

**II. Copies of Listed References**

Copies of all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are being supplied.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /CB/

**III. Concise Statement of Relevance**

The Examiner will note that the Abstracts of all references are enclosed.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form PTO-1449  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT'S</b>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/597,396
		Filing Date:	August 14, 2006
		First Named Inventor	Francesc Ayats et al.
		Art Unit	TBA
Examiner Name:		TBA	
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number:	102792-616

# NON-PATENT REFERENCES

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>
	AA	Alexander Willgallis et al., <i>Zur Polymorphie des Na<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></i> , Glastechnische Berichte 37, April 1964, 194-200.	
	AB	Von W. Hoffman et al., <i>Über die γ- und δ-Modifikationen des Natriumdisilikates, Na<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></i> , Zeitschrift für Kristallographie, Bd. 129, 1969, S. 396-404.	
	AC	Zdeněk Johan et al., <i>La kanemite, nouveau silicate de sodium hydrate de néoformation</i> , Bull. Soc. Fr. Minéral, Cristallogr., 95, 1972, 371-382.	
	AD	Klaus Beneke et al., <i>Kanemite-intercystalline reactivity and relations to other sodium silicates</i> , American Mineralogist, vol. 62, 1977, pages 763-771.	

EXAMINER SIGNATURE: /Chester Barry/ (03/26/2008)

DATE CONSIDERED: 03/26/2008

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>see Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>for Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.197 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.